THE LIQUOR QUESTION.

Opinion of James W. Gerard on the Prohibi-tory Liquor Law of 1855.

My opinion has been requested by a committee of im-porters and dealers in foreign and demestic liquors, on various questions submitted by them, arising under the Prohibitory Liquor law passed at the last session of the Legislature, involving a construction of some of its provisions and the constitutionality of others.

The first and second of these questions-viz.: lat. What is the effect, extent and application of the

risions and the constitutionality of others.

The first and second of there questions—viz.:

1st. What is the effect, extent and application of the following words, at the conclusion of section 1? viz.:—This section shall not apply to liquor, the right to sell which in this State is given by any law or treaty of the United States; and,

2d. If a right to sell any particular description of liquor is reserved and excepted, then is that right general in its nature, or is it limited and confined to any particular persons: and if so, to whom?

— I propose to consider together.

1 am not aware that there is now in force any treaty or law of the United States in terms conferring the right to sell "injuor" in this state. The right of introduction, however, is independent of State legislation, and is permissively derived from the practical operation or treaties of commercial amity and intercourse substitute between the United States and intercourse substitute of the various provisions of the tariff acts. These latter confer the privilege of importation, and that privilege, it has been judicially determined, carries with it in favor of the original importer the unrestrictable right of sale.

The words, "This section shall not apply, &c.," therefore, in the position in which they stand, need not necessarily be construed as a declaration simply of a right which no State legislation could affect, but are entitled to receive a more extended application, founised on the context and the power of the Legislature in relation to the internal traffic in archent spirits of every kind. I understand it to be substantially established by various decisions of the Surpeme Court of the United States, that a State, in the exercise of its police powers may, so far as internal traffic is concerned, regulate, even possibly to the extent of prohibition, the sale of any article which it may adjudge nonous or injurious to the health or more application, from the prohibition, and internally have formed a part of the foreign commerce of the count

Is exempting imported liquors from the operation of the act.

I conclude, therefore, that the prohibitions, penalties, and forfeitures in the act contained, have no application to the sale or keeping of such liquor, as pursuant to the commercial regulations of the United States, is a subject of importation, whether it be in the hands of the original importer or retail dealer.

The third question—"is the keeping in a storehouse other than a bonded warehouse, of a stoot of liquor on hand previous to the 4th July, 1855, within any of the prohibitory clauses of the act, the same not being intended to be sold or given away?"

I answer that I think it is intended by the Legislature so to be, but am of the opinion that the provisions of the law which affect the general right of property in these articles, and direct its destruction, are unconstitutional and void, for the reasons presently given.

The fourth question—"Does the act, in terms, or by mecsuary implication, prohibit the manufacture of liquor, as defined by section 22, for export to other States, or the sale within this State of liquor manufactured in other States,"

Lauser as to the first branch, that the manufactured in

or the sale within this State of lignor manufactured in other States?'

I answer, as to the first branch, that the manufacture of lignor in this State is not, in terms that I can perceive, expressly prohibited, nor its export; yet that the practical operation of the seizure clauses of the law, were they constitutional, would virtually put en end to the manufacture or production of domestic l quor. But if these are unconstitutional, and therefore void—and I thim, they are—a distiller or brewer has, for augat I can perceive, a right to make and export luquor to be said in other States, if he does not make it to be sold within this State—and this view seems to be supported by the exemption of the prohibitory words of the first section, to the case of its transportation from one place to another, or its being stored in a warehouse prior to its

to the case of its transportation from one place to another, or its being stored in a warehouse prior to its reaching the place of destination.

This is the best conclusion I can come to on this branch of the case, the different clauses being exceedingly observe and inconsistent.

On the last branch of the query, I am of opinion that in, the lowner cases in 6 Howard, abd, the majority of the Gourt in effect decided that it is within the power of the States witually to annual the importation from other States witually to annual the importation from other States witually to annual the importation of congress, special or general, to which such a regulation of Congress, special or general, to which such a regulation of internal traffic would be repugnant. (See opinion of Co. 1 annual control of Co. 2 annual control

gislative encroachments on private rights, like the present act.

It is said, however, that in the exercise of its police power, the State may, and often does—as in the case of gunpos der and quarantine laws—destroy private property for the public good. The reason of this, however, is, that at the time such an authority is exercised the subject is in itself, from its own intrinsic character, directly dangerous to life or health, or in a position from which, by the operation of other causes, the like results might flow. Putrifying merchandise stored in a warehouse would be an illustration of the former, gunpowder of the latter view. The theory of the law on this subject, says Chief Justice Shaw in the case of Fisher vs. McGirr, American Law Register, vol. 2. No. 8, p. 467, seems to be this—with a property of which noxious and injurious use is made, shall be seized and contested, becaus either it is unlawfully used by the owner or person having the power of disposal, or by some person with whom he has placed and intrusted it, or that by his default it has fallen into the hands of those who have made an intend to make the noxious and injurious use of it o which the public have a right to complain, and from which they have a right to be relieved.

"Therefere, as well to abate the missance as to punish the offender, the property may be forfeited or destroyed as the circumstances of the case may require and the wisdom of the Legislature direct."

Now, granting that it may be competent for the Legislature to provide, as a means of aiding in the enforcement of a probibitory law, that liquor kept for alle hould be a nuisence and liable to be destroyed, (which I deny,) it is impossible that the Legislature could constitutionally direct such purposes, other than sale, as the interest of the owner may suggest, such as waiting for the repeal or modification of the law, or an opportunity of shipment to other States or countries.

Liquor is not in itself injurious to any person or thing; it is its improper use or rather abuse

Patrick Boylan, of the Fourth ward, was arraigned in the Special Sessions on Tuesday morning, for selling pleaded guilty to the charge. His Honor the Recorder said that the question had been mooted as to whether there was any punishment applicable. He would, therefore, look into the matter carefully, with the light afforded by the published opinions of Mesars. Hall, Savaga and Capron, and render Judgment on Wednesday morning in the General Sessions, to which court he sent the case.

SPIRITUAL OPINION ON THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION We understand that a distinguished ex-Judge has nearly ready for publication a legal revelation in favor of temperance. He has discovered that Messrs. Hall and Dillon are not proper mediums.

The second Tuesday in May is the day fixed by the city charter for the meeting of the Board of Excise; consequently the members of that body assembled at Toynbee's Hotel in the morning, and appointed a committee to wait upon the Mayor, and ask him for the use of a room in the Crty Hall in which to organize. The of a room in the City Hall in which to organize. The
Mayor replied that he did not recognize them as an existing body; that their powers were extinct, and entertaining these views, he had fordidden the City Clerk to
take a record of their proceedings. The Corporation
Counsellor, who was present during the interview, coincided with the Mayor, and the delegation left the office.

The Mayor intends to commence his erusade against
the liquor sellers to-day, by arresting every one caught
in the act of selling.

THE KINGS COUNTY LIQUOR DEALERS. At a meeting of the Kings County Liquor Dealers'

Association, held yesterday afternoon, the committee previously appointed to employ counsel reported that they had secured the services of the following legal gentlemes:—John A. Lott, counseller; S. D. Morris, Alex Haddon, John B. King, Philip Hamilton, associate attorneys.

attorneys.

The Gowanda (N. Y.) Chronicle, in speaking of the delects in the Liquor law, says:—"Was ever another such a blundering, beetle-headed Legislature known? or was it huavery that prompted such a bungling enact ment? We include to a belief that both thick headed ness and chicanery have secured the passage of as ob moxious and conflicting a law as could conveniently be framed and yet present a semblance of the prohibitory principle.

Assistant Engineers.—The Representatives of the Fire Department, (eastern district,) met on Monday evening and canvassed the votes cast at the recent elec-tion for Assistant Engineers. The returns of Engine quence of informalities, and that of No. 10 was referred to a committee. A resolution was adopted declaring that G. B. Lane, Airred Wallett, Charles Wall, wm Meekes and Andrew J. Hinman had received the highes number of votes, and solletting the Common Council to confirm their nomination. DEMOCRATIC FUSION.—Another fusion meeting was held

DEMOCRATIC FUSION.—Another fusion meeting was held at Military Hall, last evening, pursuant to a call of many democrats of the First Assembly district, Kings county. About 8 o'clock the meeting was called to order, by electing to the chair John R. Rowe, and John McGillett, Sectretary. On motion, the call of the meeting was read and adopted. For the first time the unterrified were harmonious after the "pow-wow." At the Fulton House, in Fourth street, Mr. Wm. Marshall, who attended to break up the avertous meeting, in decourse. tempted to break up the previous meeting, in denouncing President Pierce, his Cabinet, and Mr. Swackhamer. ing President Pierce, his Cabinet, and Mr. Swackhamsr, was severely handled; and those gentlemen were sustained and endorsed by the meeting. A committee of five were appointed to draw up resolutions. After some deliberation the committee reported the same, endorsing President Pierce and his Cabinet, and denouncing the Knew Nothings and the Prohibitory law; and organized a club, called the "Democratic Union Club of First Assembly District of Kings County." An election for permanent officers being had, the following sentlemen were elected:—President, Philip Hamilton; Vice Presidents, John H. Bowie and H. D. Birdsall; Secretaries, John H. Gillett and Joseph T. Sackett; Treasurer, Chas. Riehl. After which a committee was appointed to prepare a constitution and by-law. On motion, they adjourned in great spirits, subject to the call of the officers.

SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DECLINED.—Rev. Chas. Hoover, elected Superintendent of the Common Schools at the ceasery to decline the office, owing to necessary demands upon his attention, and has, therefore, filed his resigna-tion in the office of the City Clerk. The necessity of this step on his part is much regretted by the citizens, as he is regarded as remarkably well qualified for that station.

THE HOBOREN COUNCIL.—At its meeting on Monday, the members of the Council decided by lot which of them should serve for the short term, (one year.) and which for the long term.

lows:-	
First wardF. T. Carpenter. Second wardGe. W. Bampton. Third wardJan. I. Wilson. The Council adjourned to meet at Thursday evening.	Long Term. James W. Brush. William White. Edw. Snedeker. the City Hall on

Obstmary.

Died, at the United States Arsemal, Watertown, Mass.
May 6, Captain Jons A. Wenners, aged 56. Capt. Web
ber was a son of President Webber, of Harvard University. He graduated at the United States Military Acadamy at West Point, and for the last twenty five years
has occupied the office which he held at the time of his
death.

death.

Baron Prevont, totalerly accretary to Louis XVIII., and
Charles X. of France, died on April 1st, at the Chateau
de Boisenar, aged 73 years.

The Turf.
UNION COURSE, L. I., TROTTING—THE GREAT RACE
BETWEEN SONTAG AND PLORA TEMPLE.

Monday being one of the finest days of the season thousands were induced to leave their ordinary avocations, and indulge in a day's sporting. The particular event which drew such a large concourse of people to the Union Course was the announcement of a trot between the celebrated Fiora Temple—the "mistress of the turf"—and Sontag, mile heats, best three in five to wagens, wagen and driver weighing 300 lbs., for \$2,000. match, and the omnibuses, steamboats and railroad cars had been plastered for days in advance with handbills announcing the affair. The training stables of the respective mags were literally besieged for several days previous to the race, by individuals anxious to obtain the smallest item of information relative to the condi-tion and probable speed of their favorites; but their trainers were "mum" except to a favored few. Some were so anxious to ascertain their powers, that they waited from daylight in the morning until after dark, in waited from dayight in the morning until after dark, in heres of obtaining a glimpse of the horses at full speed in their training, in order to make up their minds about the proper way of investing their money. But whether they had merely their labor for their pains is best known to themselves. One thing, however, is clear to our mind, that Flora Temple was entirely overmatched in this race. It will not do to expect impossibilities. ties. She performed all that was expected of her by her friends, and even more; and the opinion pre-valent that her defeat was owing to a change of drivers, is sheer nonsense. Hiram Woodruff is undoubtedly a great driver, and Flora Temple is a great horse; but, conjunctively, they could not have beaten Whelan and Sontag on Monday last, the opinions of others to the contrary notwithstanding. Warren Peabody, the trainer and driver of Flora Temple is an accomplished and skilful man in his profession and under his guidance the mare made every exertion she was capable of under the circumstances. One thing which appeared to militate against her speed was the fact of her being unusually wild and fractious throughout or her being unusually wild and tractions throughout the race, owing to more speed being required of her than she had been accustomed to for some time past. She has been in training for her twenty mile race, which races which she had been formerly accustomed to, and in which she was so generally successful. In answer to not drive Fiora in the race, we may observe that he had been engaged by the Sontag party not to take part in the present match. Notwithstanding her defeat in the present instance, Flora has lost none of her former prestige—for the old adage says that "for every good there is a better"-and her owners must not expect to her brilliant career that she was not the favorite before

Sontag, the winner of the present race, has been very successful nag. She made her advent here last covery was made that she possessed uncommon speed, which was first manifested in her race with Frank Forrester last fall—one of the miles in the race being performed by her in 2.31. She is a Hambletonian, of large size, and finely proportioned. Her action, when at full speed, is very high in front, but she is very steady and graceful in her long stride. It is said that she was originally s pacer; but she shows no disposition now to break into that peculiar gait, so offensive to the trotting connoisseur. She has now reacned the pinnacle of her profes sion, and her future engagements will have to be with such mags as Ed. Eddy, Highland Maid, &s. No doubt she will sustain her newly acquired reputation, with

On reaching the course, we found that a large crowd had already assembled, and which received constant actime, the mags were brought upon the track and station ed on the southern end of the course, to keep them ed on the southern end of the course, to keep them out of the wind as much as possible. Soon afterwards, udges were chosen and all preliminary matters adjusted in orawing for places, Flors won the pole, considered a great advantage in a close race. Much excitement prevalled among the crowd at this period, and all sorts of bets were loudly offered by the Sontag party, the gray mare by this time having become a decided favorite, Flors having previously been so. One individual was abouting at the top of voice, "i'll bet 50, 100, or 1,000 dollars that Sontag wins the race!" Others were offering 100 to 80, 100 to 75, &c., &c.; and for fear that they could not get all their money posted before the horses exhibited their speed in scoring, 100 to 60 was freely offered. The crowd now appeared all betters, and in every direction that the eye could reach, groups could be seen collected backing their favorites with an anxiety, bordering on frenzy. It was an exiting scene, and the mania for betting seemed so infectious that men never known to indulge in speculations of this nature before, were observed with their wallets out and as eager to stake their money as the

uons of this nature before, were observed with their wallets out and as eager to stake their money as the most prefessed gamblers.

The track was all that could be destred, having been lightly harrowed and dressed up for the occasion. The borses leoked uncommonly well, and were in the best possible condition.

First Heat.—Flora took the lead at the word, and away have the search of least to least a great and and and a search of least to least a great and and and a search of least to least a great and and and a search of least to least a great and and and a search of least to least a great and and and a search of least to least a great and a search of least to least a great and and a search of least to least to least to least the least a great and a search of least to least the least a search of least least to least the least a search of least least to least the least a search of least le possible condition.

First Heat.—Flora toek the lead at the word, and away she went opening a gap of a length clear, around the turn. Her frience were in ecatacles, believing it impossible for Sontag to overtake her; but their spirits were soen dampened, for on getting on the straight side Sontag was observed gaining rapidly on her, and as they passed the quarter pole—time thirty-seven seconds—Sontag was lapped on her. This brought out a shout of exultation from the Sontag party, which continued until the gay mare was entirely clear of Flora, and going lite lightning for the half pole, which ahe reached in 1.13! Flora struggled hard to overtake her—for a moment gaining and then falling off again. On the lower turn, she broke up, which seemed to benefit her, and after regaining her trot she made a tremendous burst and reached the wheel of Soatag, but could not retain her position. The speed of Sontag again carried Flora off her feet, and notwithstanding all efforts of Flora and her driver, Sontag come home a winner by a length in 2.31, the quickest heat to 300 lbs. weight ever performed.

The vesult of this heat did not dammen the av-

her driver, Sontag come home a winner by a length in 2.31, the quickest heat to 300 lbs. weight ever performed.

The result of this heat did not dampen the arder of the friends of Flors, so sanguine were her admirers of her ultimate success. Neither horse appeared to mind the severity of the race, and looked remarkably well after the usual attendance on such occasions.

Second Heat.—Sontag now having the pole, took the lead at the word, and maintained it to the end. without an apparent effort on her part, passing the quarter pole in thirty-seven seconds, a couple of lengths ahead of Flors, and the half mile pole in 1.14. The crowd now became convinced that Flora was overmatched—she could not get along with the weight as well as the gray mare; and they seemed to think that her chances were hopeless. Senteg continued on the even tenor of her way until she reached the goal, winning easily in 2.33.—Flora a couple of lengths behind. We never saw Flora so much distressed as after this second heat.

Third Heat.—This was a counterpart of the previous one. Flora strained every muscle, but without avail, to reach her antagonist, who came home in hand in 2.33. The quarter was made by Sontag in forty seconds, and the half in 1.17. Thus ended this most exciting contest, which has absorbed the minds of the sporting circles for many days, and on which much money has been lost and won.

The following is the summary:—

Monday, May 7.—Match \$2,000, mile heats, best three

Time—2:31—2:33—2.35.

The next important match will come off to morrow (Thursday,) at the Centreville, between Whalebone and Stella, for \$2,000, to be followed on Monday next with a match at the same course between Pocahontas and Herefor a like sum.

Time, 1:52—1:85.

CALIFORNIA RACES.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 9—A match race for \$10,000, two mile heats, came off over the Sutter Course, Sacramento, between Wake-up Jabe and Antilla, a Boston colt. The following is a summary:

Wake-up Jake. 1 1

Attilla. 2 dis

Time, 3:50—4:91.

Thend Day—Pacing—Purse \$409, mile heats, best three in five, in harpess.

FIRE ON ANTHONY'S NOSE .- We are informed that the wooden the promostory known as Anthony's Nest, on the Hudson river, wire on fire on Monday evening, and had been burning since Sunday night.

"PRINTERS' STRIKE."-Under this head several journals yesterday published a paragraph relating to the printers employed on the Courier and Enquirer, the errors in which require some notice. It is not true that "fourteen hands left on Friday night," nor is it true that the whole number of hands employed was "twenty-one." It is false that any denial, "point-blank" or other, was given to any demand, or that "waiting for copy" was formally complained of. The facts are simply these.—On Thursday a paper was presented to us, asking that therty-five cents per thousand might be adopted as our scale, instead of thirty two cents, as new paid. The request was no in urgent terms; but on Friday, while we had the matter under consideration, ten of the men decided to leave at once, and on Saturday another followed their exam ple, making cieven in all. They were paid their dues on saturday, and there the matter ended. The preprietors of the papers which have done us injustice have been imposed upon by some parties who have professed to give the facts. The key to the whole difficulty is the existence of an organization called the Printers' Union, which deaires to obtain the control of every composing room in the city. By adroitly operating upon the jealous rivalry of some journals, they have succeeded in obtaining a degree of control over them, and thus enforcing a high scale of wages. The effect upon the entire trade has been cisastrous, calling, as it has done, female labor into competition. Several years age, when we paid a rate as high or higher than the "Gnion" demanded, we published a notice that no member of that body would be employed on this paper, and we adhere to that determination, having had no reason to change our views. It is true that we could conduct the business of our printing room in compliance with the scale of the "Union" at a decided saving of money, but it would subject our compositors and ourselves to inconveniences, which we prefer to avoid by managing our own affairs in our own way.—Courrier and Enquirer, May 8.

Election of Fire Department Commissioners.—The

FLECTION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMISSIONERS.-The rapresentatives of the Fire Department met last night in accordance with the provisions of a new act, to elec five commissioners, who will bereafter have much of the power now vested in the Common Council. There were over a dezen candidates in the field, and the canvassing was quite active. The following named

These gentlemen are all well known exempt firemen and will no doubt-fill their offices with credit to them-selves and to the department. A motion was made and carried, to notify the Corporation not to grant relief to disabled firemen, as there was a fund in the department especially set apart for that object. The meeting soon after adjourned.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS -At a meeting of the members of the Mechanics' Institute, held last evening, the following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year:—President, Wm. Miles; 1st Vice Fresident, Oliver Hoyt; 2d do. George W. Pratt; 3d Vice Fresident, Oliver Hoyt; 2d do. George W. Pratt; 3d do. James Rogers; Corresponding Secretary, Charles H. Delavan; Treasurer, George W. Glaze; Recording Secretary, James McDonald. Directors—Thomas Smull, Elijah F. Purdy, E. B. Fellows, John C. Brant, Myron Wight, Edmund B. Child, William Garner, Joseph Haydock, T. Jones, Jr., John Martin, Gilbert Harpur, George Steers, Wm. C. Cumberland. Thomas Little, John McDonald, Janes G. Hammond, Wm. D. Murphy, Henry H. Hooper, Wm. R. Marsh, M. C. Tracy. After the election speeches were made by Messra. Delavan, Miles and Glaze, suggesting what they deemed the best means of advancing the interests of the Institute.

FATAL ACCUENT TO A FIREMAN.—Antonio Rausens.

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A FIREMAN.—Antonio Rausens, a fireman attached to Engine Company No. 16, expired on Monday night at his residence, No.1 Sullivan street, from the effects of severe injuries received on Sunjay, by being run over by a cart in Frankfort street. Deceased, while running to the fire that took place in Water street, came in contact with a horse and cart, and being knocked down, was run over, the wheels of the vehicle passing over his body. The injured man on being taken up ceclared that the cermsn was in no way to blame, as he was driving quite alow at the time and it was more the result of deceased's own carelessoess than anything else that caused the occurrence. Having been severely injured internally the unfortunate man lingered but a short time after the accident took place. An inquest will be held upon the body of the deceased to day. Rausena kept a dripking saloon at the corner of Sallivan and Canal streets. He was an Italian by birth and was about 30 years of age.

The New Chy Hall,—It is now some sixteen months or so since the New City Hall was burnt down, but no

or so since the New City Hall was burnt down, but no-thing has yet been done to erect a substitute in the place it occupied, nor in any other locality. This delay in meeting the wants of the city government doubtless arises from two causes—first, on account of the conflict-ing interests of the up and down town population; second, by reason of the difficulty of conciliating insecond, by reason of the difficulty of conciliating in-terested parties in regard to the size, plan and expense of the proposed building. That there is a powerful and growing influence in favor of locating the municipal government nearer the actual future centre of the populaenment nearer the actual future centre of the popula-tion than the Park, cannot be doubted; still, the force of habit and the predilections of business men engaged in commercial pursuits in the lower wards seem to balance, if not to overpower, the progressive interests of the upper part of the city. In this conflict of opinion and of interest, a solution of the difficulty could be found in an appeal to the ballot box. Let the city government call upon the people themselves to de-cide by a direct vote in favor of up town or the Park. The question of the locality definitively settled, we have no remedy against the pickings and stealings in the ex-penditures on the buildings but in the honesty of a few of the members of the Board of Aldermen and in the veto power of the Mayor. Let the question first go to the people.

of literary societies commenced last night their third quarterly public session. Delegates from eight societies took part in the exercises. The President, Mr. Douglas Leffingwell, gave a short opening address. The after ex

Leffingwell, gave a short opening address. The after exercises were as follows:—Oration, "Triumphs of Commerce," Mr. Wm. Walter Kelley, of St. Charles Institute; essay, "Spirit of Liberty," Mr. James Wallace, of the Minerva Association; poem, "Others and Ourselves," Mr. Tavid Crawford, of the Henry Clay Literary Society, "Sesay, "Fenelon," Mr. P. H. Leonard, of the Clinton Union; oration, "Spirit of the Age," Mr. W. B. Asten, of the Herlem Lyceum; essay, "Every Day Life," Mr. Johrson, of the Metropolitan Association. The session will be continued this evening, and close on Thursday.

ARRESTED FOR FORMER ENLISTMENT.—Officers Niven and Helmes arrested Ferdinand Wechte, at his office. No. 183 Greenwich street, yesterday, on a charge of keeping an agency for the emistment of men for the Crimea, in violation of the neutrality laws of the United States. It may be well to state again, for the benefit of such as may be ignorant of the fact, that those agencies, while they profess to be intelligence offices, for the employment of mechanics and laborers to go to Canada, are nothing but recruiting offices of the English government. A considerable number of men have been induced, under the false promises held out, to leave their families in this city and go to Canada, where on their arrival they found out the deception that had been practiced upon them.

Grand Figure A Tammany Hall.—The Rynders' Grenadier Battalion gave a grand bail last

Rynders' Grenadier Battalion gave a grand bail last night at Tammany, in honor of the Queen of May. The room was appropriately decorated with flowers and ever-greess, and with its gay crowd, presented a brilliant scene. At the head of the room a bower was erected for the Queen, who dispensed her floral favors with a grace and dignity of manner that won the admiration of all. Miss Feeks, daughter of ex-Alderman Feeks, of the Thirteenth ward, was selected to fill the throne by a committee of thirteen ladies, and at her coronation was addressed by Captain Rynders, who recited an appropriate peem prepared for the occasion. The gallant Captain himself was one of the presiding spirits of the occasion, and as a faithful subject of his fair sovereign, received from her hands a fitting reward, which was worn on his breast as a mark of honor. Each lady as went on his breast as a mark of honor. Each lady as went on his breast as a mark of honor. Each lady as weld in fealty to her Queen, was presented with a bouquet, for in this instance it was the sovereign that paid the tribute, not the subject. There were present between five and six hundred ladies and gentlemen, and in justice to the former, we must say we have seldom seen in one assemblage such an array of beauty. Altogether the floral festival was most successful, and at 11 o'clock, when we looked in, the company were in the full tide of its enjoyment.

THE LATE HATCHWAY ACCIDENT — Coroner O'Donnell held an inquest yesterday, at the New York Hospital, upon the body of Joseph Sharp, whose death, as we announced in yesterday's paper, was caused by a barrel of lime failing upon him while he was at work under the hatchway of the store No. 100 Walker street. The jury in rendering a verdict, censured the proprietors of the place for not providing proper hoisting apparatus in their establishment. The deceased was a native of England, and was about twenty years of age. The father, John Sharp, who was severely injured on the occasion, is now doing well, and is probably out of danger. He is attended by Dr. Dash, of the New York Hospital.

An extensive fire broke out in Saugus woods, near Boston, on the 6th inst., and burnt over about three hundred acres of woodland. A large number of persons were engaged all day in fighting the flames. In the evening, the fire illuminated the herizon, and was seen for a great distance, causing the alarm bells to ring in various places.

THE ANNIVERSARIES.

· THE CITY ANTI SLAVERY SOCIETY. REVIEW OF SENATOR WILSON, OF MASSACHUSETTS— REVIEW OF ABOLITIONISM, OF THE OLD PARTIES, AND OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

The Hon. HENRY WILSON, U. S. Senator from Masse The Hon. HENRY Wilson, U. S. Senator from Massachusetts, delivered last evening, at the Metropolitac Theatre Broadway, a lecture, supplemental to the New York Anti-Slavery Society's second annual course. The subject of the lecture was announced as "Anti-Slavery in 1835 and Anti-Slavery in 1855 Contrasted." Though the price of ticksts was twenty-five ceats, the attendance was pretty large, but yet by no means so large or so fashionable as that which convened in the same building a week or two ago to glorify on the passage of the Maine Liquer law. One colored lady, with a colored gentleman, occupied front seats in the family circle, and were the only representatives of the colored race present visible to our reporter.

The entertainments of the evening were commence

by the Hutchinson Family, singing what they terms the "Freeman's Rallying Song," the refrain of which is—
And voices from the mountain height
And voices from the vale
Say: for freedom's fearless host
There's no such word as Fail

Rev. HENRY WARD BRECHER then came forward and said—It was made his agreeable duty to introduce to their attention the speaker for the night. If he was in Massachusetts, he would not need to introduce him, for there he is known for his good works in behalf of free dom. He thought there must have been a great change in public opinion for the last few years. In 1851 or 1852 there could not have been such a meeting as this in the city of New York; and if there was, Massachusetts would not be found introducing them. He now had pleasure, however, in introducing to them Senator Wilson, the shoemaker of Natick. Senator Wilson then came forward, and after the ap-

plause which greeted him had subsided, said:—American slavery, our connections to it, and the obligations imposed on us by those connections, make up the grand issues of American politics. These issues are arresting the attention of phisanthropiats, scholars and statesmen. He could hardly hope before this suditory, so often in structed by the genius and eloquence of some of the greatest orators of the age, to deserve even a passing notice, but he intended to speak so as that there could not be the slightest misapprehension of his sentiments. He was committed—fully committed—in fevor of the absolute abolition of slavery. Wherever it exists under the constitution of the United States, he was pledged to vote in favor of erasing from the statutes of the United States, and anti-slavery in the United States. (Applause.) He proposed to contrast anti-slavery in the United States in 1835 and anti-slavery in 1855. These were grand epochs. Anti-slavery in 1855 is in the zenith of its weakness. Anti-slavery in 1855 is in the zenith of its weakness. Anti-slavery in 1855 is in the zenith of its power. Then, a few nameless men were its leaders—now, the greatest intellects of America are its chieftains. Then, not a single statesman in all America accepted its doctrines or defended its measures. Now, it has a majority in the House of Representatives, and is rapidly modifying the complex on of the United States Senate. Then, the press ridiculed it—now, the greatest journals of the country support it. Now, it shapes, moulds and fashions religious and literary organizations at its pleasure, even so as to compel the oldest literary institution in the country to cast from its bosom an officer who had delivered man to the slaveholder. (Applause and hisses) Now, it holds every political organization in the country in the palm of its right hand; and it has only to be true to itself to hold the sor per of government in its hand. (Loud applause.) Whittier, the poet, says of those days:—'To be an abolitionist then was to be branded as an slavery, our connections to it, and the obligations im Had that extent—no more.

Had that extent—no more.

And for that offence they were branded as outlaws. Now, it is, and will continue to be, "to the last syllable of recorded time," their glory and right to be kept in remembrance for their good deeds by all posterity. Murmurs of discontent sometimes apoke in the sar of the country against the domination of a power which held the North in subjugation. A rapid review of the riss and progress of slavery will show shy this was so. In 1443, half a century before Columbus gave the New World to the Old, African bondsmen were imported into Europe by Portuguese navigators. Spain followed the example. Early in the sixteenth century Spain legalized the African slave traffic, and sent African slaves to work the rich mines of Hispaniols. In 1623, twenty-six slaves were brought by the Dutch to the colony of Virginia, and some were afterwards brought to New England, but rejected by the Puritan fathers. Encouraged by British legislation, the English merchants imported to this country nearly 409,000 of the children of Africa. The party of the slave trade for nearly two centuries dictated the policy of England. Parliament ceclared the trade to be highly benedicial; and in 1749, when the charter of the Royal African Company expired, the ports of Africa were thrown open to the free trade to African eleves. The American calonies forces, and when the charter of the Royal Arican Company expired, the ports of Africa weet throw no pen to the free trade in African slaves. The American colonies foresaw, and strove against the evil. South Carolina, as late as 1700, undertook to arrest the rapid insportation of slaves, and alse received the rebulse of the English government there for the south, and the property of the Huderon, letlaware and Potomae, advocated emancipation. The Frst American Congress declared that God never intended one portion of mankind to hold their fellow man in bondage. Gradual emannipation are proposed by Jefferson and other statesmen of Virginia, but timid counsels prevailed and Virginia remained a slave State. The great men of the revolution who were in favor of emancipation, shrunk from the sontext with the slave power, and admitted a provision in the Constitution, under color of which the fugitive slave laws of 1793 and 1830 were enacted. In 1789, North Corollina chad Tannessee to the Chico, but upon the constitution in the constitution of the sontext of the federal government under this policy of compromise. He had not time to trace the several acts of the federal government under this policy of compromise. He had not time to trace the several acts of the federal government under this policy of composition of Representatives declared against the introduction of slavery may be a supported to the United States, kept alive by the society formed some twenty years before, han nearly defout. In 1810 there was a partial revival of that sentiment. The House of Representatives declared against the introduction of slavery. William Pinchney, the great Maryland lawyer and cornor, who had parted its dangers, now left the lecturer—has been as firm a supporter of Southerra aristocrecy as the English House of Lords has been of country that you be an evil had passed away, and that a new race had aprung up, which made slavery the conversion of the short of the suppose of the country of the suppose of the country of the suppose of the country of t

the lecturer, that President Pierce has recently had reason to change his optalons concerning that sentitiment. (Laughter and applause.) And ever General Jackson recommended that abolition doctries should not be sent through the mails. The State Legislatures, the church and the presswere all arrayed then against the anti-nievery doctrine. There was one honorable exception in the journals of the country. That journal was the Evening Past, which was then edited by Wm Leggett. Honored forever be that mame in every assemblage of American abolitionists! (Applause.) But smid all these scenes the heroic spirits which inaugurated the movement did not quail. They looked danger in the eye and fruried defiance at power. They knew that the contest between slavery and freedom in America was not a war of men, but a war of opinion. Through the gloom of the present they saw the rays of ravishing glory shine in. They believed in the promise of the poet:—

Keep heart: who bear the cross to day, shall wear the crown to morrow.

They declared, "we are in earnest; we will not equivocate; we will not recent

They declared, "we are in sernest; we will not equivocate; we will not retreat a single inch, and we will be been." Her beep that condict which for treaty her attention of the country, and which now settracts in the state of the country, and which now settracts are not to them all. That condict was rid war. Under the leat of John Quincy Adams, after a seven years' contest, they won the right of petition; when the next war came, they denounced it; and when peace brought with it 500,000 acres of free soil, they struggled to keep it free. They hurled declance at all aggressive measures. When those days came at the mention of which Americans should blush, when old politicians went about the country begging of the people to repress their sentimants, when merchants are not all the sentiment of the same and the sentiment of the same are sentimen omach title ic. (Applause.) It was time for them to see
to it that the Northern statesmen who had served the
South can never again serve the North; and he hoped
inat no Northern man shall ever again be permitted to
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serve in Northern man shall ever again be permitted to
serve in Northern man shall ever again be permitted to
the tree were any who wished to form anothplause. Jonal
party to get into power by ignoring the slavery sentiment,
he would ask them to look at the progress
and the decease of the whig party, verifying in its fall
the prediction of the great Wetator, that atter Novemner, 1852, the whig party should live only in history.
So, too, with the democratic party, which is now much
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that we have the power to abolish it;
and we intend to abolish it. (Applause.) We intend
to repeal the act of 1807, under which the domestic
slaver, but he them understand we had are responsible for the existence of always; but in the
District of Columbiayand in the Territories slavery exists
by our authority, and we have th